



TDA Update

Issue 2: 13 January 2023

A message from our Principal

Happy New Year to you and yours.

The start of a new year is an opportunity for our Academy community to reflect on last year, set or adapt ambitious goals and to cultivate new habits. Habits can be defined as routines or behaviours that are repeated regularly and tend to occur subconsciously. Building good habits will ensure that our students are more likely to be successful and achieve excellence. In his book Atomic Habits, James Clear states, 'The only way to become excellent is to be endlessly fascinated by doing the same thing over and over'. New habits do not have to be big - small changes, repeated regularly, will make a huge difference.

For our students, sitting examinations in the summer, a new habit could be attending every revision session, committing to complete a past paper every week or even ensuring that they are getting enough sleep. Other students may focus on being fully equipped for learning every day, reading for pleasure more regularly or implementing an exercise plan to support physical and mental wellbeing. Whatever the change, commitment and resilience to embedding the new habit is what will make the impact.

As an Academy we prioritise 'Big Moves', each term, as the key things we will focus on to ensure we continue on our journey from good to great. This term our Big Moves are;

1. Improve Year 11 outcomes and further develop Year 11 teaching

2. Systematically reward students and improve belonging

3. Deliver the Leadership Charter and live our values

Each Big Move is made up of smaller changes/improvements. As I stated previously, small changes can make a huge difference. David Brailsford, who was the GB cycling coach, described the small changes as 'marginal gains'. By accumulating marginal gains we can make significant improvements. This approach resulted in remarkable success for the cycling team over a number of years. As an Academy we are consistently looking for our own marginal gains. For example, as part of our Big Move 2 we are doing the following:

- The implementation of Breakfast Club to ensure all students are fuelled for a day of learning. This is free and starts at 8.20am every day.*
 - Standards Gate, which is open from 8.30am every day, allow students to collect missing equipment or uniform to ensure they can meet our Academy standards and learn productively.*
 - Our new 'Set the Day' period, is designed to set the culture for learning each day.*
-

I look forward to hearing from students about the habits they are forming and will continue to update you on the progress of our Big Moves.

I hope you enjoy Issue 2 of our TDA Update.

Kind regards

Ged Rae

Principal



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19 January 2023: Year 9 Progress Evening

Thursday 2 February 2023: Year 12 and Year 13 Progress Evening

Thursday 9 February 2023: Last day of term

Friday 10 February 2023: Inset Day

Monday 20 February 2023: Academy re-opens

Attendance Matters



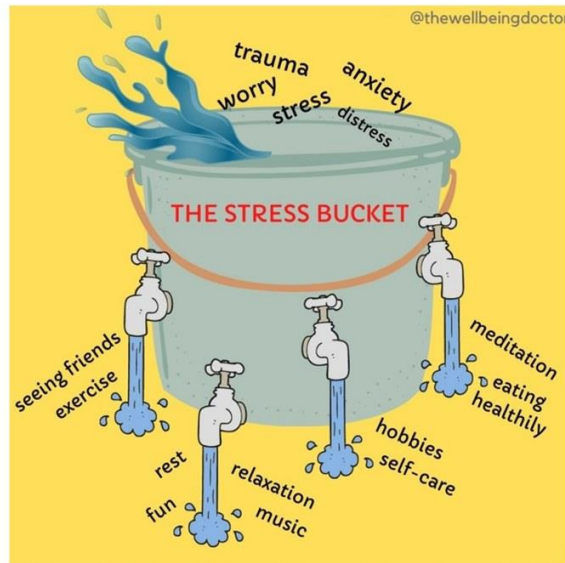
- **Overall attendance, trends, comparison to national (FFT latest data)**
 - Overall attendance – 92.7%
 - Girls – 93.7%, Boys – 91.7%

- Our attendance is currently 1.9% higher than national averages within secondary schools.
- **Attendance by Year Group**
 - Year 7 – 93.6%
 - Year 8 – 92.2%
 - Year 9 – 92.6%
 - Year 10 – 92.9%
 - Year 11 – 92.2%
- **Top Form in each Year Group**
 - Year 7 – 7.4ED 96.32%
 - Year 8 – 8.3JS 92.98%
 - Year 9 – 9.1LCH/MC 92.43%
 - Year 10 – 10.4JSA 92.90%
 - Year 11 – 11.2ES 95.71%
- **Attendance focus/priority**
 - Year 11s are now in their final term before their main GCSE exams. Attendance to lessons and intervention is pivotal to success, and studies show the negative impact that low attendance has on final grades.
 - Illness – Please continue to follow Academy guidelines if your son/daughter is off school and ring in to inform the office as to the reason for absence.

Safeguarding

At TDA all teaching and support staff have a stake in ensuring we have a strong culture of Safeguarding. Students themselves are fully involved in this and, in addition to learning embedded in the relationships and sex education programme, students also receive a bespoke safeguarding curriculum delivered by their coach.

We all experience stress How do you manage yours?



This term the focus of the Safeguarding Curriculum will be mental health and online risks. Coaches will be teaching students strategies to manage their own well-being including this week, teaching them about the 'Stress Bucket' model. To see a short video about using the stress bucket as a way of talking about managing stress, and other ways you can support your child please follow this link;

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/stress-bucket-activity/>

Smoothwall Online Safety Advice for Parents – Live presentations and Q&A

Academy Transformation Trust are putting on two live online parent and carer presentations with our digital safety specialist provider, Smoothwall. These events will present the key online risks that young people face and will offer you useful insight into the online world your children see, and the risks they may be exposed to. There will be tips on how to keep your children safe online, expert Q&A sessions and signposting to useful guides and tips. If you have any specific questions that you would like answered, please contact us via email, text or phone before Wednesday 18 January 2023 so we can ensure your topic is covered in the presentation or live question and answer session.

We ask that all parents attending this live session, ensure that they watch the presentation away from their children, as some of the content covered, may not be suitable for children and young people to hear. We would also not want to inadvertently advertise inappropriate online risks, to young people.

The presentations will be delivered on the two dates listed below and links to the events will be sent out via email and text nearer the time.

Monday 23 January 2023 at 5.45pm

Monday 30 January at 6.30pm

Culture and Climate



Launch of Set the Day

We are excited to announce the launch of our 'Set the Day' strategy. We have created a session in the mornings, before lessons and in coaching teams, that will help our students be ready to learn, develop positive learning mindsets, and ensure they have the correct uniform and equipment. This initiative is a new development in our approach to pastoral care. We are developing our start of day routines further in 2023, with Student Breakfast, Standards Gate and Set the Day all playing a key role in setting positive culture and high standards.

Further, to help students be ready for the day through addressing any issues with uniform and equipment, Set the Day will also serve as an opportunity for students to develop relationships in their coaching teams and be updated with reminders of key expectations. This is also a key part of the day where students have contact with both their Head of Year and their Pastoral Leader.

Additionally, Set the Day also provides a key opportunity to track attendance, which is crucial for ensuring that students are in school and ready to learn.

We believe that Set the Day will be a valuable addition to our school culture, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our students' academic and personal success. We have detailed the key purposes of Set the Day below:

- To provide additional time with Coaches, Pastoral Leaders and Heads of Year every morning.
- To help students be in the very best frame of mind for learning before lessons.
- To remind students of key rules, expectations and standards.
- To help solve any problems students have straight away.
- To take students to standards gate if required.
- To take the morning safeguarding register.
- To check student attendance.
- To check student uniform.
- To check student equipment.

Quality of Education

Year 11 Update

Year 11 have been working extremely hard as we move towards our final set of mocks which take place w/c 27th February. This also means that there are only 20 revision sessions left before these begin. A reminder that revision sessions take place every Tues - Friday in a variety of subjects, and we strongly encourage all students to attend at least three a week. All students who attend at least 15 sessions between now and the 27th February will receive a prize, and be entered into a prize draw to receive one of 3 fabulous prizes! Please encourage your child's attendance to these really beneficial sessions.

Well done to all of the students that have already achieved their 75% revision attendance since the start of the year!

If you require any support at home with helping your child to revise, please contact us at the academy and we will be really happy to help.

Finally, a reminder that there will be a series of revision sessions taking place during February half-term, the last push before the mocks. A letter with more details is to follow.

Teaching and Learning

This term, staff at TDA have been focusing on live modelling and high-quality explanations in lessons, whereby teachers talk through the learning process by highlighting key procedures and the thinking that underpins them as a tool to improve student outcomes. Staff have been working together to develop their level of expertise, and student feedback has been highly positive.

Sixth Form

Sixth Form and Year 10 business students enjoyed a day at Cadbury World learning about marketing and business, as well as sampling the chocolate!











Wall of Excellence

The Sixth Form Wall of Excellence has been updated based on academic excellence nominated by teachers



Academy News

Support for students to help with the cost of living crisis

Winter Coat Appeal

The Academy has been working with Tesco on a winter coat appeal, donations can be made to the Academy or at Tesco, all coats are free of charge. Coats can be requested in the morning at standards gate or through year group pastoral leaders.



THE DUKERIES
ACADEMY



Winter coat appeal

We want to ensure that every member of our local community has access to a warm coat this winter.

The Dukeries Academy and Tesco Ollerton have set up donation points for winter coats, to help us provide **free** coats for anyone that needs one. You can drop off coats (all sizes accepted) at the donation points in The Dukeries Academy reception or at the Tesco Ollerton customer service desk.

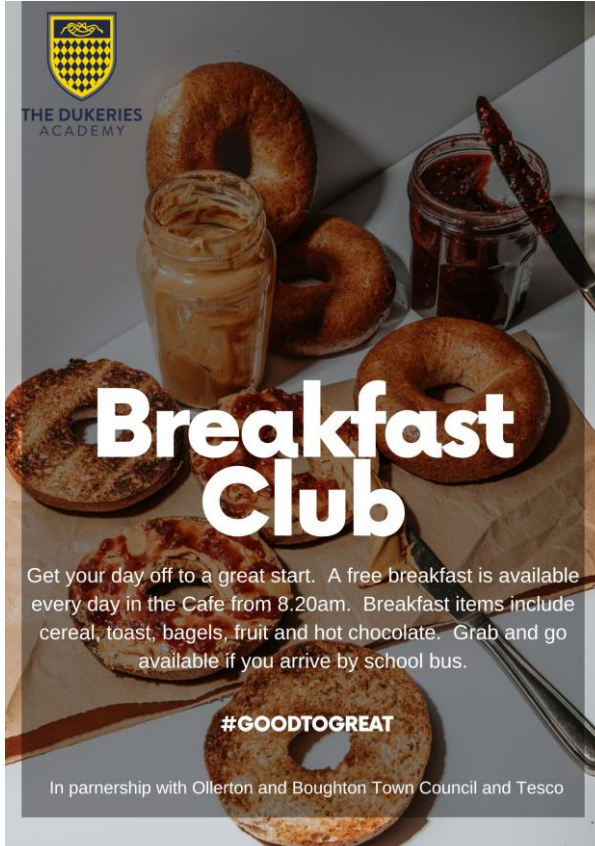
Other winter items such as gloves, hats or scarves will also be gratefully received


Coats for school aged children will then be available at Standards Gate in the Academy each morning and adult coats will be available for collection at Tesco Ollerton.

Thank you in advance for your support

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open from 8.20am each morning, students can have a free breakfast and hot drink before starting school. We would like to thank Ollerton and Boughton Town Council for their generous donation that will help us to keep this running.




THE DUKERIES
ACADEMY

Breakfast Club

Get your day off to a great start. A free breakfast is available every day in the Cafe from 8.20am. Breakfast items include cereal, toast, bagels, fruit and hot chocolate. Grab and go available if you arrive by school bus.

#GOODTOGREAT

In partnership with Ollerton and Boughton Town Council and Tesco



Prom Dress Event

PROM EVENT

Lots of pre-loved quality prom dresses available at affordable prices
"Get your dream dress for a dream price"

Monday 13th February (4pm-7pm)
Tuesday 14th February (10am-2pm)

LASHES HQ

Pre-Loved Shop

115b Clipstone Road West, Forest Town
Parking at St Patrick's Church opposite or Kingway Hall
lasheshq13@cloud.com
07707219834

The TDA Prom is on Thursday 29 June 2023. We will confirm the venue at a later date..

Physical Education

School Sports Fixtures:

Football – *Since the last newsletter, we have only had one girls football fixture to report on.*

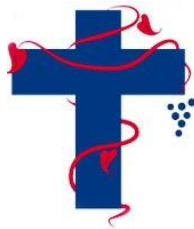
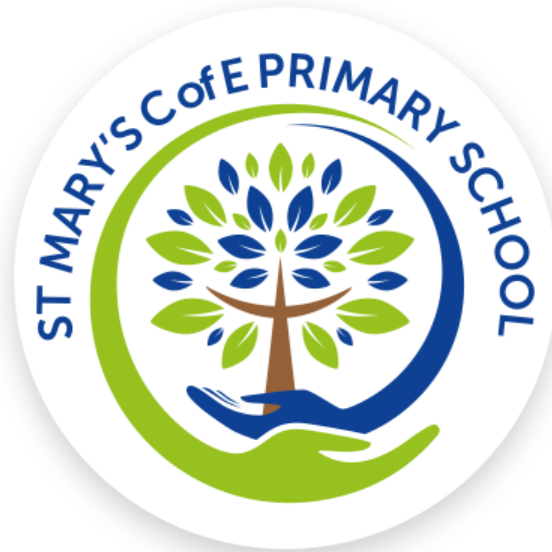
Y7/8 Girls Football team played in the next round of the county cup earlier this month, against Rushcliffe School. Unfortunately, the girls lost in a very good battle against a strong Rushcliffe side. We had the uphill battle along with the wind blowing in our faces in the first half Rushcliffe using this to their advantage scoring 4 goals, giving us a target for the second half. After re grouping now going with the hill and wind we took 3 early goals making it 3-4. After holding the game for a bit Rushcliffe managed to squeeze another 2 in before the final whistle making it 6-3 to end. Knocking us out of the cup.

The girls worked hard as a team and deserve the recognition. Special shout out to Brooke G for an incredible goal. Thank you to Elissa D Y10 for coming along and helping run a line and helping with subs, changing positions of players to help keep us in the game for so long.

Primary School Festivals

We are delighted to say that we have a very busy few weeks coming up for our feeder Primary schools, starting with two Sports Hall Athletics competitions, supported by our own fantastic band of Sports Leaders from TDA. We are also starting our Trampoline taster sessions and have a Cross Country competition booked in for years 1-6. Plans are moving forward with our Body Rhythms Dance Festival so hopefully more news on that too in the coming months. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our feeder Primary school staff and pupils into the Academy and are excited to share a great programme of sporting events with them.





St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School and
Nursery



THE PARKGATE ACADEMY

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

Extend and Enrich

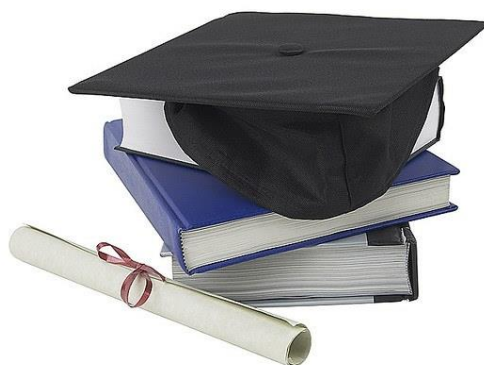
Our Key Stage 3 students are loving going 'beyond the curriculum' and exploring new interests in their weekly Extend and Enrich sessions. Extend is a year long project where students opt to take part in one of the following exciting lessons every Tuesday during the Academy day. The groups are from mixed years, giving students the opportunity to work with those they would not usually engage with inside a classroom. Students can choose from one of the following options; Drama, choir, multi sports, coding, Brilliant Club, First Story, construction, textiles, crafting, digital photography, film making, gardening, trampolining, book club, creative writing.

Enrich is a termly project, giving our students the chance to experience 3 different enrichment opportunities over the course of the year every Thursday during the Academy day. The varied options include; improv, musical theatre, drumming, sports leaders, new sport, FA Whistlers, dance, French, STEM, debate, gardening, construction, film, textiles, history and crafting.

In each newsletter we will be sharing with you what our students are up to in each of the different activities.

Extend - Brilliant Club

Brilliant Club gives students the chance to work with University PHD students to write a highly academic piece of work to university standard. Following a trip to Warwick University, the students have now finalised their assignments and submitted them to be reviewed by a PhD tutor, Raphael Kasonde, the Assistant Director in Financial Analysis at the Bank of Zambia. The aim of the project was to analyse and compare two balance sheets (one for Barclays, one for Lloyds) and explain which bank would be more likely to encounter liquidity issues. The second part of the project was to look at and compare the quarterly report from the Bank of England to justify whether banks in England were safer in 2020 or 2021. We are confident that all students will get excellent grades (equivalent to a University assignment) and we can celebrate with a trip to Sheffield University for graduation in February



Extend - First Story

Our First Story students are enjoying their weekly sessions with professional writer in residence: Kevin Fagan. Each week, students complete creative pieces with a variety of stimuli from fire to

forests. Their writing will eventually culminate in their work being published in their own collection of writing. We are looking forward to the book launch in the summer and the students seeing their work on sale.

Enrich - Gardening



Students have been learning lots about how to help maintain a successful garden. Students have got to grips with weeding in the allotment area, which is necessary in order to plant bulbs and sow seeds. Students have begun planting bulbs (tulips) into their own individual plant pots, which are now sat in the polytunnel ready to grow! We will soon be sowing vegetable seeds in individual pots ready to plant out in the spring. Fingers crossed for some better weather so we can get out a bit more!

Enrich - Film Club

The aim of Film Club is for students to explore a variety of films, which they would not typically access, whilst developing their oracy, literacy and analytical skills. Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been watching a variety of films from black and white classics to documentaries, low budget and blockbusters such as He Named Me Malala, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas and Back to The Future. After watching the films, students analyse the creative choices made and complete film reviews where they consider the directors aims and intentions.

Staff Vacancies

We have a number of vacancies for roles within the Academy. If you think you have the enthusiasm, skills and experience to help us to 'inspire excellence and maximise opportunities for all' we would love to hear from you. You can find out more at the following link

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/dukeries-attrust/>

Current vacancies:

Assistant Principal

Head of Sixth Form

Teacher of English

Cover Supervisor

Exam Invigilator